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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/841,037	04/25/2001	Tatsuhiko Kawasaki	1466.1037	4357

21171 7590 07/21/2004

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EXAMINER

ALPHONSE, FRITZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2133

DATE MAILED: 07/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/841,037

Applicant(s)

KAWASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to the amendment filed on 6/14/2004, in which claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 14 are amended and claims 15-16 are added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 7, 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto (U.S. Pat. No. 6,498,593) in view of Takagi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,376,986).

As to claim 7, Fujimoto (figs. 1, 2) show a plasma display panel comprising: a pair of substrates (1, 6) defining a discharge space; scan electrodes (X1, Y1) arranged on one of the substrates (1) for row selection of a matrix display; data electrodes (Aa, Ab) arranged on a second one of the substrates (6) for column selection of the matrix display, two of the data electrodes (Aa, Ab) are arranged for each column. Fujimoto teaches about a barrier (7; see figure 1) provided portion of the second one of the substrates (i.e., substrate 6) corresponding to the data electrode (Aa, Ab) to prevent discharge between respective ones of the data electrodes (Aa, Ab) and of the scan electrodes (X1, Y1) so as to make each of the two data electrodes (Aa, Ab) interactable with the scan electrodes (X1, Y1) and not interactable with the scan electrodes alternately, for a predetermined number of rows (note in fig. 2, lines L1-L2i shows the location where the two data electrodes (Aa, Ab) interactable with the scan electrodes (X1, Y1) and not interactable with the scan electrodes) See col. 8, lines 30-56 and figures 4-5.

Art Unit: 2675

Fujimoto does not disclose data electrodes having a meandering shape being arranged for each column of the matrix display.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Takagi discloses a plasma display panel wherein the data electrode for each column having a meandering shape (figs. 1, 3; col. 4, lines 33-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to improve upon the plasma display panel, as disclosed by Takagi. Doing so would prevent the interference of discharge between the rows securely without decreasing the operation margin (col. 2, lines 41-43).

As to claims 14-16, the claims differ from claim 7 by the additional limitation "barriers... extending parallel to the data electrodes and between the columns". However, these limitations are clearly disclosed by Fujimoto (note Fujimoto teaches about a barrier (7; see figure 1) provided portion of the second one of the substrates (i.e., substrate 6).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-6, 8-13 are allowed.

Conclusion

4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306 for all formal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Art Unit: 2675

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse, P.E., whose telephone number is (703) 308-8534. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, Alt. Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert De Cady, can be reached at (703) 305-9595.


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may also be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit 2133

July 19, 2004


Guy J. Lamarre
Primary Examiner